

PULSE OXIMETRY

INDICATIONS:

- May be used in patient at risk of respiratory insufficiency; e.g., certain medical conditions or secondary to medication administration.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- None
- Not accurate when used in certain clinical conditions

EQUIPMENT:

- Pulse oximeter
- Appropriately sized sensor
- Nail polish remover; gauze pad

PROCEDURE:

- Remove nail polish if necessary
- Attach sensor to finger
 - Alternate locations: earlobe; great toe of children
- Attach pulse oximeter
- Allow equilibration time
- Note and record pulse rate and S_pO_2 level
- Monitor constantly and record S_pO_2 levels at appropriate intervals
- If patient is hypoxic, provide appropriate interventions.

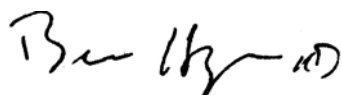
DOCUMENTATION:

- Record initial and at least one additional S_pO_2 reading on the prehospital care report (PCR).

NOTES:

- Maintain equipment as per manufacturer's recommendations
- Pulse oximetry is an additional assessment tool. Patients with ischemic chest pain, trauma, and other conditions should receive oxygen regardless of saturation readings.
- Certain nail polish colors, especially reds and blues, interfere with accuracy of readings. Acrylic nails are also an impediment. Consider alternate locations to attach sensor.
- Pulse oximetry is not reliable in several clinical conditions and should not be used in the setting of low perfusion states (e.g., hypotension, cold extremities), edema, anemia, carbon monoxide poisoning, cyanide poisoning.

Approved:



Treatment Guidelines: procedures: PR-65
Implementation Date: 4-19-04